

Dear Secretary Daley:

I am writing to express my concern for the Steller sea lion population in western Alaska. The Steller sea lion population has undergone a dramatic decline that parallels the explosion of commercial pollock fishing in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Pollock is the Steller sea lions' primary prey — and they simply cannot compete with industrial fishing fleets for the fish.

I urge you to demonstrate your department's commitment to the conservation of marine biodiversity by protecting the endangered Steller sea lion as follows:

- Extend no-trawl zones to 20 nautical miles around all Steller sea lion rookeries and haulouts listed as critical habitat;
- Keep factory trawlers out of an area known as the Catcher Vessel Operation Area, which overlaps extensively with critical habitat year-round;
- Spread the pollock fishery out geographically and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson

NAME

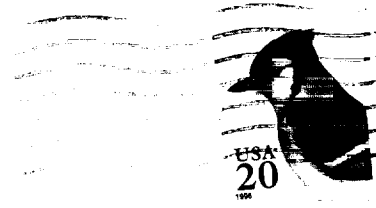
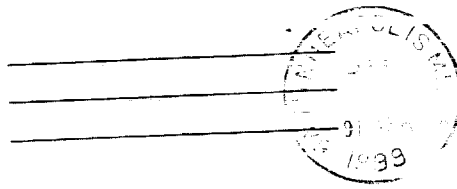
Eric Nelson

ADDRESS

4208 Powderhorn Cir MTEA MN 55345

98P-0504

C255



16-70

Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1
Rockville, MD 20857

